

# Prefontaine says week a total waste

BAKERSFIELD, Calif. (AP) — Steve Prefontaine and Danie Malan were upset; Mary Decker was tired and Jim Bolding was surprised.

High winds carrying dust and bringing temperatures in the low 40s made the third Bakersfield Invitational track meet a true test for the hearty. Performances were surprisingly good for a meet in which the wind gauge was blown off its moorings.

Prefontaine may have been the most upset. "I could have run 8:34.4 in a workout," he said. "I'm really depressed. I was ready to leave but I had come all this way to run."

**THE TWO-MILE** was held up for 10 minutes until the wind died down. It didn't so meet officials started the race anyway. "The late start was understandable, but I was just standing there getting cold. They just should have run the race on schedule," said Prefontaine.

Prefontaine was suffering from the after effects of a cold, but he said he was "ready to run 8:20. I rested all week for this and now it turns out to be a completely wasted week. I've got to get back into training again."

Asked if he felt the American two-mile record of 8:22.0 is too old, he said, "Yes, it's been too old for a few years." It was set by George Young in 1968.

**MALAN, THE** 23-year-old half miler from Stellenbosch, South Africa, said he knew the windy conditions would make "for a tactical race, not a fast one," so he wasn't surprised he lost to Rick Wohlhuter, the world record holder. "I just wasn't excited about this race," he said. Malan will run next week in the California Relays at Modesto.

Wohlhuter said he would have been "better off running in Chicago in January," but said the winning time of 1:48.8 wasn't bad. Malan, a student in agricultural economics, was timed in 1:50.0.

Miss Decker, shivering in the breeze, said her time of 2:04.6 in winning the 880 was "about what I expected to run, but not under these conditions. I'll be under two minutes before the season is over but I've only been back two weeks after having my tonsils out."

**FASTEST MAN ON** the track was 100-220 dash winner Don Quarrie of Jamaica. Now running for the Beverly Hills Striders, Quarrie took the 100 in 9.4, the 220 in a 1974 world-best 20.3, picked up his prizes and dashed off the wind-whipped field before reporters could interview him.

Bolding, running his third fast intermediate hurdles race, clocked 50.0 despite the swirling winds which caused him troubles at both ends of the race — "At one point it was coming into my face and I had to stretch to make the hurdle and near the finish the wind was blowing me into the hurdles. I'm surprised it was that fast."

**QUARRIE WAS** also one of four Striders who ran the 440-yard relay in 39.8, equal to the fastest time in the nation this year.

One notable mark came from the last-place finisher in Bolding's race, the intermediate hurdles.

Bill Blessing, a Dallas high school lad, ran 52.9, just two seconds off the world junior record.